

Cardiff away for the winners

A TRIP to Ninian Park, Cardiff, is the prospect facing the eventual winners of the Wycombe Wanderers - Bedford second replay in round two of the F.A. Cup on December 13.

Although no doubt both Wycombe and Bedford would have preferred a home tie, this Cardiff game holds quite an attraction. There should be a crowd of 7,000 or more which will mean a good cash hand out and there is also the chance to play in

an excellent stadium which is the home ground of the Welsh national team.

Cardiff were obviously delighted to have been drawn at home again — they thrashed Exeter 6-2 at Ninian Park on Saturday in the first round. But they won't be making the mistake of underestimating their opponents whoever turn out to be. Manager Jimmy Andrews is too experienced for that.

He said yesterday: "The home draw suits me fine but I would never underestimate a non-league side. You have only to look at Saturday's results to

see how strong some of them are and it will not be easy to build up an atmosphere among my players. But we must hold the advantage of being at home."

Under Andrews, Cardiff are currently fighting their way back into Division 2, having been relegated last season. Andrews is now in his second year of manager and he has a wealth of experience behind him. As a player he was with West Ham, playing in the famous Hammers team that included such names as Sexton, Bond, Allison and O'Farrell. He has since been coach at some of the

best clubs in the country — Q.P.R., Chelsea, Coventry, Spurs and Luton.

He turned down an offer to coach the Iran national team with Frank O'Farrell and decided to concentrate on Cardiff. To get the players he needed he had to make two big transfer deals. He sold Leighton Phillips to Aston Villa for £95,000 and Andy McCullough to Oxford. That brought in a total of £180,000.

Andrews has spent wisely. He signed Wales and Spurs centre-half Mike England, Doug Livermore from Norwich, Tony

Evans from Blackpool, and Australian World Cup player Adrian Alston from Luton. Now his team seems to be working well with 17 points from as many games, after a bad start to the season. They are in 10th place in Division Three.

There are four Welsh internationals in the side — Gyl Reece, Phil Dwyer, Mike England and Derek Showers. All in all, things are looking pretty bright for Cardiff and Saturday's win over Exeter was the best F.A. Cup result for 44 years. Incidentally, Cardiff won the Cup in 1927 when they beat Arsenal 1-0, so Wanderers could be meeting former holders of the Cup for the first time in their history.